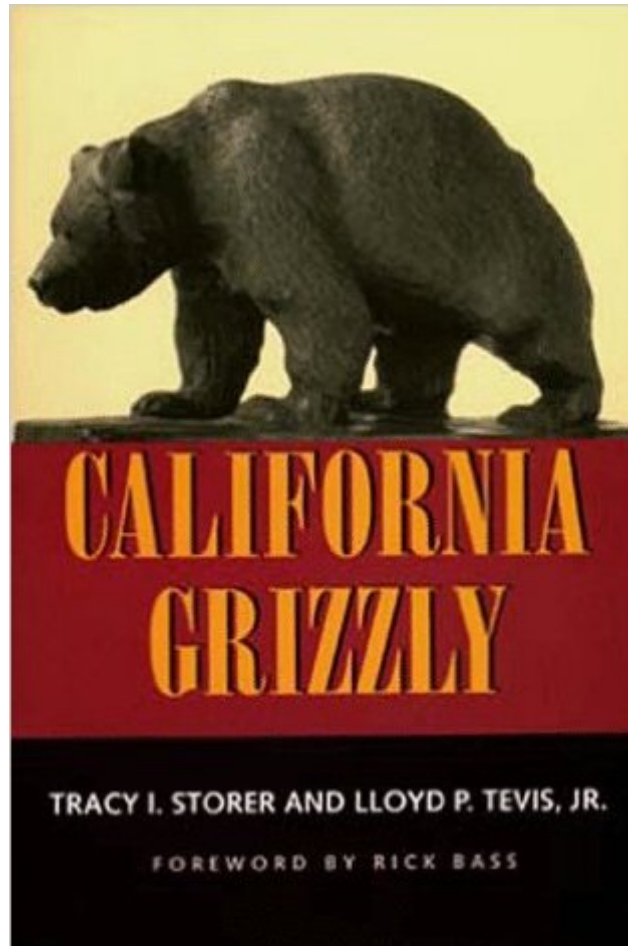


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# California Grizzly



## Synopsis

The California Bear Flag and the University of California football team the Golden Bears emblemize the great animal that has been extinct in California since the 1920s but once numbered perhaps as many as ten thousand in the state. Forty years after its original publication, University of California Press proudly reissues California Grizzly, still the most comprehensive book on the bear's history in California. The lessons of the book resonate today as the issues of protection of wildlife habitat versus unfettered development of land for human use are debated with increasing urgency.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Though the work is forty years old, Storer and Tevis remains a valuable sourcebook for those wishing to understand the full nature of an extinction. It's all here: bear biology, relationships with Indians, relationships with Spaniards, stories of famous California Grizzlies, the ~real~ life and time of Grizzly Adams, and more. Whether you are a biologist, a historian, or just an armchair wildlife enthusiast, you will find California Grizzly a fascinating and necessary book.

I'm a pretty big nerd, and this is one of the best books I've read lately. A bit dry, but extremely informative, and unrivaled in the competitive California Grizzly book market. I had to distance myself a bit emotionally to cope with the vivid descriptions in which we drove these poor creatures to extinction, but the fact that it hit home is probably a good thing. Nerds, environmentalists, wildlife enthusiasts, researchers, and hippies should enjoy this book about how careless we were with a

beautiful creature.

The only fully researched book on the California Grizzly, written in the 1950s. And because it was written at that time, there are certain inaccuracies about grizzlies. Storer uses the Yellowstone grizzly as his measure of what the bear in California must have been like. So, for instance, he says that females can start to have a litter at two years of age. We now know, having studied Yellowstone grizzlies intensively for over 50 years, that females do not come into estrus till around five or six years of age. I also have to wonder if his chapter on the California tribes relations with the bear is colored by the time period as well. All Storer has to go on are a few tidbits and reports written down by whites and missionaries. They portray native Americans as just scared of the grizzly, and mostly happy when a Spaniard kills one. I have a feeling this is a narrow and slanted historical view. Tribes around the Plains and across the West that are still intact tell stories of how the bear was revered, of bear secret societies, of how bears represented death and rebirth. All that said, the reader gets a vivid picture of early California and the bear, how the Spaniards treated the bear, as well as the white miners and homesteaders who killed them off. This book is a classic and if you are interested in Grizzlies, a must have in your library.

Beyond the scientific portions of this book, California Grizzly spends a Chapter discussing the role of the grizzly bear as a symbol and emblem of California. It collects facts and pieces of information not readily available elsewhere, like very early images of the California Bear Flag and information about drawings of the California grizzly. Given that its two authors were zoologists, it is impressive that they spent the time and had the interest to establish some of the more humanly significant materials about this animal, and its influence as symbol. Since the book was first published in 1955, it is pleasant to have a new edition, which makes its information available to a new generation of readers and Californians. William J. Trinkle---Director The Bear Flag Museum

The book is a solidly documented history of Grizzlies in California. It is however sadly lacking in physiological analyses that govern bear behavior in terms of foods, habitat requirements, reproductive behavior, and rearing. The forward by Rick Bass on the other hand should be excised, burned, and its author sent to a re-education camp. Were these animals to be "reintroduced" today, they would face severe challenges to their survival as the plant food and soil foundation upon which they survived is just not there; they would end up spreading the weeds that displaced it.

The best book that I have read about the historical grizzly. An easy and very enjoyable read. I especially enjoyed reading from the eye witness accounts of the Spanish bull and bear fights. I also found the real "Grizzly Adams" to be interesting. Great book!

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